



# Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

## STATE'S CROPS BAKE IN RELENTLESS AUGUST HEAT

**NASHVILLE, September 12, 2007** – Farmers across the State of Tennessee watched helplessly during August, as already drought-stressed crops endured record heat and dryness. Crops and pastures baked in what the National Weather Service indicated was the hottest, driest August for the State since records began. As of the first week of September, most of Tennessee was in the extreme to exceptional drought categories. The State's soybean crop was hit especially hard. Debra Kenerson, Director for the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, described the situation as follows, "On August 1, just one month ago, the soybean crop had good potential but the lack of rain and high temperatures lowered yield prospects by 9 bushels." The September forecast, which is based on farmers' projections of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 100 bushels per acre, down 25 bushels from 2006; **Cotton**, 815 pounds per acre, down 130 pounds from a year earlier; **Soybeans**, 24 bushels per acre, down 15 bushels from the previous year; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,700 pounds per acre, down 500 pounds from last year.

## COTTON PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 840,000 bales, down 39 percent from last year's record level and the lowest since 2002. Cotton yields are expected to average 815 pounds per acre, down 14 percent from a year ago and the lowest since 2003. Producers expect to harvest 495,000 acres, down 200,000 acres from 2006. The cotton crop needed just one or two good rains in August to be on track for another excellent year. The lack of rain, coupled with record high temperatures, however, stressed plants and led to abnormally early development. As of the week ending September 9, the crop was a full three weeks ahead of its usual 5-year development and was rated in mostly fair condition. By late August, defoliation was underway and harvest has begun on a limited basis.

## SOYBEAN PRODUCTION LOWEST SINCE 1999

Tennessee's soybean production is forecast as 25.2 million bushels, down 43 percent from 2006 and the lowest since 1999. Soybeans yields are expected to average 24 bushels per acre, down 9 bushels from last month's projection and 15 bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.05 million acres, down 80,000 from a year ago. As of the week ending September 9, two-thirds of the State's soybeans were rated in poor to very poor condition, the lowest crop condition rating since records began in 1985. This year's trouble is similar to the drought in 1999, as the month of August was virtually rain free. Unlike that year, however, the State also experienced one of the hottest months on record. Through September 9, virtually the entire crop was setting pods, over 60 percent were dropping leaves, and harvest had begun in a few areas.

## CORN HARVEST PRODUCTION UP 25 PERCENT

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 78.0 million bushels, up 25 percent from a year ago. Corn yields are expected to average 100 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from last month, but 25 bushels below 2006. Producers expect to harvest 780,000 acres for grain, up 56 percent from last year and the highest since 1985. With the recent dry weather, harvest is in full swing. As of the week ending September 9, nearly three-fourths of the grain crop had been combined, two weeks ahead of the normal pace.

## BURLEY PRODUCTION LOWEST SINCE 1922

As of September 1, burley production is forecast at 20.4 million pounds, down 19 percent from last month and 34 percent below a year ago. If realized, this will be the lowest level since 1922. Tobacco growers are expecting burley yields to average 1,700 pounds per acre, down 500 pounds from last year and the lowest since 1995. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 12,000 acres, down 2,000 from 2006. Tobacco harvest has been slightly ahead of schedule as the drought conditions have led to acres being cut before normal maturity. Just over 60 percent of the crop was in curing structures on September 9. Virtually the entire burley crop had been topped. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 2,700 pounds per acre, down 500 pounds from a year ago, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,300 pounds per acre, down 450 pounds from 2006.

### CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2007, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2006	Indicated 2007	2006	Indicated 2007	2006	Indicated 2007
		Thousand		Number of Units		Thousand	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	10,000	100
Corn for grain	bu.	500	780	125	100	62,500	78,000
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	695	495	945	815	1,368	840
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,800	1,860	2.30	1.50	4,140	2,790
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1.9	<sup>2</sup>
Soybeans	bu.	1,130	1,050	39	24	44,070	25,200
Tobacco, All	lb.	19.80	19.05	2,482	2,056	49,135	39,175
Dark fire-cured	lb.	5.30	6.40	3,200	2,700	16,960	17,280
Burley	lb.	14.00	12.00	2,200	1,700	30,800	20,400
Dark air-cured	lb.	0.50	0.65	2,750	2,300	1,375	1,495
Winter Wheat	bu.	190	300	64	39	12,160	11,700
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,931,700	9,284,700
Corn for grain	bu.	70,648	85,418	149.1	155.8	10,534,868	13,307,999
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	12,731.5	10,543.0	814	811	21,587.8	17,812.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,423	40,388	1.78	1.87	70,000	75,347
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1,010.1	1,026.9
Soybeans	bu.	74,602	63,265	42.7	41.4	3,188,247	2,618,796
Tobacco, All	lb.	338.9	355.07	2,144	2,023	726,644	718,375
Dark fire-cured	lb.	11.85	13.30	3,324	2,826	39,392	37,580
Burley	lb.	103.6	105.2	2,095	1,878	217,085	197,540
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.30	4.65	3,059	2,644	13,155	12,295
Winter Wheat	bu.	31,117	37,188	41.7	41.3	1,298,081	1,537,262

<sup>1</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton. <sup>2</sup> No significant commercial production due to freeze damage.

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